

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FROM SUPERVISOR KAUFFMAN



TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 26th!

Look for more information inside this newsletter

"When You Find Yourself in a Hole, the First Thing You do is Stop Digging"

When faced with a challenge, I always prefer to focus on what I can do rather than on what I can't. One of the biggest challenges we all face is the flip side of our success. With everyone wanting to live and work in Northern Virginia, gridlock and development issues are on our calendar daily. We are moving to take charge of our growth and here's what you can do to help.

For the first time in fifteen years, the Board of Supervisors has enacted comprehensive revisions to how we regulate residential development. We've seen home development change from large projects to small ones surrounded by established neighborhoods. The new ordinance recognizes this change and makes it possible to preserve more trees and incorporate more community wishes into a developer's plan. I am proud to have initiated this action.

The Board also approved a cash proffer formula that finally considers the impact of development on our neighborhood schools. While it won't solve our problems with "by right" development on land that is already zoned, it's a good step forward. It wasn't easy to get this change and I fought hard to persuade my colleagues to approve it.

In another significant land use change, the Board approved my proposal to "down plan" the Telegraph Road Corridor from Beulah to the Beltway. As a result, at least 150 new houses will not be built and will not add to our school trailers and roadway congestion. At the same time, a task force composed of community-selected representatives voted to reject seven of nine proposed plan changes for development elsewhere in the district and scaled back the remaining two.

The long-awaited extension of South Van Dorn Street to Telegraph Road has finally begun and I have persuaded Richmond to release funds to complete the improvements to Beulah Street. One thousand new parking spaces are under construction at the Franconia-Springfield Metro station with five hundred to follow at Huntington. We're doing our part to stop digging the hole deeper.

That being said, I am the first to acknowledge that this falls short of our needs. Here's where each of us has a critical role to play. On November 5, you can vote to jump start funding to bring transportation projects in line with existing transportation demand. We've throttled-back the residential development but we're all still in a hole that won't get filled without your action. To find out more about the transportation referendum and other items on the ballot, please read on in your newsletter.

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Development Curbed on Telegraph

I have long been concerned by the impact of increased development along the Telegraph Road corridor, especially given the area's transportation, school capacity, marine clay, and drainage issues. In last year's newsletter I wrote about the special study of land use in the area and the work of the citizen task force and staff on the re-planning effort.

The task force recommendations were reviewed by the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee, then approved by the Planning Commission. In June, on my motion, the Board of Supervisors approved a Comprehensive Plan change that reduces the residential density to a maximum of 2-3 dwellings per acre on undeveloped or underdeveloped properties along the Telegraph Road corridor. It also highlights and addresses steep slopes, problem soils, and stormwater management problems and steers VDOT to a more responsive solution for highway planning in environmentally sensitive areas.

Springfield Steps Up to the Economic Future

Who would have thought that information technology and telecommunications—the red-hot leading edge of Fairfax County's economic strength—would cool down? Fortunately, we are well positioned to take advantage of the next growth industry with a bio-incubator in Springfield. Known as the BioAccelerator, it has already landed three client companies and will be a catalyst for economic growth in the life science community, contribute to developing a new employment base in Springfield, and further diversify the County's economic base. The BioAccelerator is on Loisdale Road, near the medical education campus.

Medical Education Campus

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education campus will open in summer 2003 for the fall semester. The six-acre campus is on Springfield Center Drive, south of Springfield Mall and east of I-95. The main building will have classrooms and laboratories, a library, an event center, and a medical mall. A six-level parking garage will accommodate faculty and students and there will be a shuttle bus from the Franconia/ Springfield Metro station to the campus. High school students will be able to enroll in college-level courses on site or by distance learning.



The Franconia Museum Board- the museum was incorporated earlier this year.

The Franconia Museum is sponsoring Franconia History Day on Saturday, October 19th at Franconia Elementary School. This free event will feature music, children's games, a guided bus tour of Historic Franconia and exhibits and speakers about Franconia History. After the event exhibits will be displayed at the Franconia Government Center. For more information about the museum please call my office.

Laurel Grove School to Host "Don't Grieve After Me" Exhibit

Restorations to the African-American schoolhouse next to Laurel Grove Church on Beulah Street were completed last year. This December the school will host a Virginia Foundation for the Humanities exhibit which explores the Black Experience in Virginia from 1619- 2001. For more information call 703-502-0941.

Island Creek Elementary/ Tree Save

Earlier this summer, School Board member Chris Braunlich and I learned that several mature trees on the Island Creek school site were in danger of being cut down to make way for a stormwater detention emergency spillway and dam. The trees were already marked for bulldozing when I called a meeting of County and School staff to review clearing and grading limits. We worked out a solution that saves the trees and retains stormwater protection for the school and community.

I am also pleased that the Park Authority has agreed to my request to transplant several trees located inside the clearing and grading limits. These trees –planted when Island Creek was built—will be transplanted from the clearing area to property along Morning View Lane where they will screen the stormwater management facility from the road and houses across the street. Kudos to the park authority for preserving mature trees for the community!

Work Begins on Metro Parking Garage

Almost since the first train pulled into the station, the Franconia/Springfield Metro has been one of the busiest in the system. In September, construction began on a new parking garage that will add over 1,000 spaces to the station.

Overflow parking is still available in the Macy's lot at Springfield Mall. Free shuttle buses (Metrobus S91 and TAGS) will run between Macy's and Metro.

Van Dorn Street Reaches Telegraph Road

The eagerly awaited extension of South Van Dorn Street to Telegraph Road is underway. Construction began in September and -if the weather cooperates- we will be driving on it this coming spring.

This road is being built and paid for by the developer of Kingstowne as part of a proffer commitment—welcome news in these tight budget times. Because the road traverses an environmentally sensitive area, it is under a United States Army Corps of Engineers permit with strict environmental safeguards. While a private developer is building this road, the County has responsibility for all environmental mitigation and has an inspection program in place to ensure compliance.

Beulah Street

The final widening from Franconia Road to Franconia-Springfield Parkway is scheduled for bid advertisement this October. Construction should begin in late winter 2002 or early spring 2003.

Woodlawn Road Opened to Traffic

It's no secret that the Army's closure of Woodlawn Road linking Telegraph Road to Route 1 made our traffic congestion even worse. I am very pleased that our sustained efforts (and the support of Senator John Warner) have shown some positive results. The Army has opened the access gate to Fort Belvoir at Telegraph Road and Beulah Street for Department of Defense-registered personnel.

This successfully concluded the first half of our strategy to restore a road connection between Telegraph Road and Route 1. The next step will be to secure the construction of a new four-lane bypass connecting Telegraph Road and Route 1. This bypass would extend Old Mill Road to Telegraph Road in the vicinity of the Hilltop Driving range.

Park News

Kingstowne Park

The developer of Kingstowne finished the new trails at Kingstowne Park this summer. The park will be turned over to the County and opened to the public by the end of this year.

Library site soccer fields

Last year the County acquired land near Manchester Lakes for a future regional library. We are working on a project to use the land for soccer fields until the library can be built with future bond funds.

Clermont Park

Field Improvements at Clermont Park on Franconia Road are nearly finished. Using private dollars, we are replacing the outdated overlay fields at Clermont with four irrigated diamond fields. There will be two softball fields, one 60-foot, and one 90-foot baseball field at Clermont. Construction and landscaping should conclude sometime this fall.



Supervisor Kauffman and Ethan try out the new fields at Clermont

Hayfield/ Huntley Land Acquisition

To meet Army Corps of Engineer requirements related to the South Van Dorn extension, we are adding 102 new acres of wetlands to Huntley Meadows Park. Many of the new acres now protected could have been developed.

Traffic Calming Proposed for Wilton Woods

The Wilton Woods community is being surveyed for safety measures to reduce the speed of traffic on Florence Lane and Shaffer Drive.

Many communities have concerns about speeding and cut through traffic in their neighborhoods. The County and VDOT can evaluate installing speed humps and other physical devices to help alleviate traffic issues as part of the Countywide "Traffic Calming Program". To initiate this process in your neighborhood, your community should send a written request to my office.